Solar America Initiative

Financial Assistance Overview
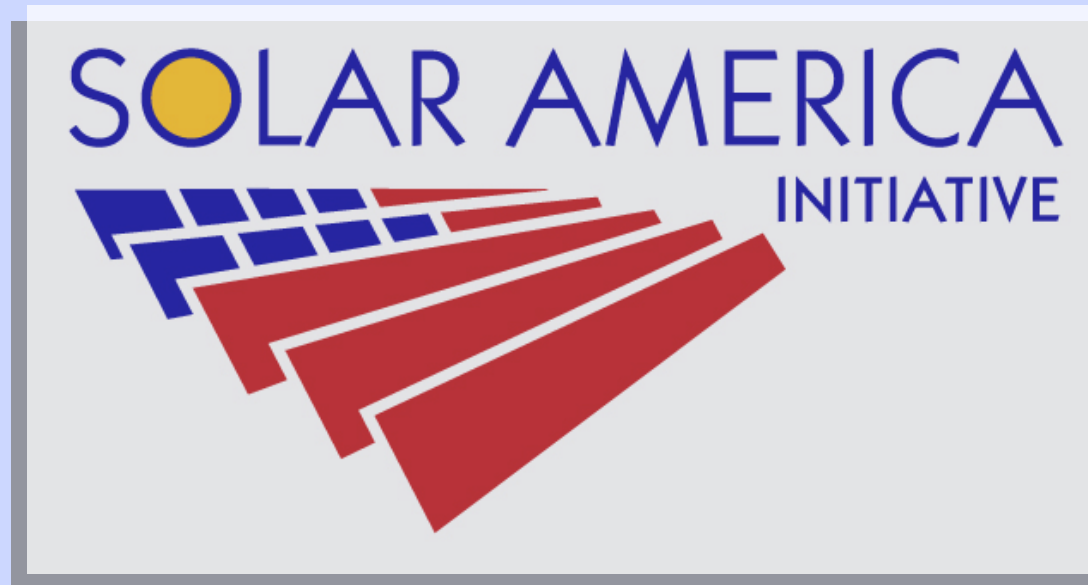
SAI Financial Assistance Overview

- The SAI Technology Acceptance (TA) funding opportunities will be administered by the DOE's Project Management Center at the Golden Field Office

- These will take the form of Funding Opportunity Announcements (**FOA**)

- In this construct, proposals are referred to as **Applications**

- Awards are expected to take the form of **Cooperative Agreements (as opposed to contracts)**

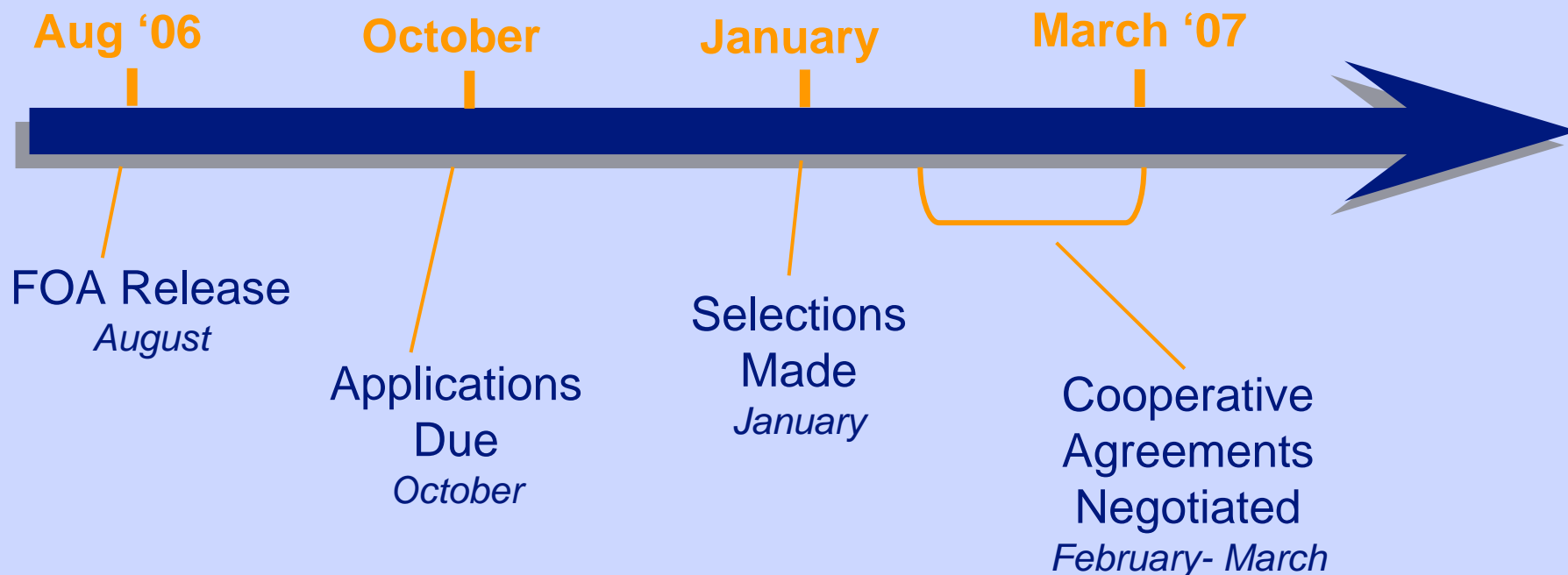- **Successful Applicants are called Recipients**

Financial Assistance 101

- Financial Assistance
  - Governed by 10 CFR 600 regulations
  - Not subject to most requirements under the FAR
  - Important differences between Financial Assistance and Acquisition:
    - DOE <u>not</u> purchasing products/services for government.
    - DOE <u>investing</u> government resources in projects to meet SAI programmatic goals to benefit nation and domestic industry.
    - Applicants propose approach to meeting/exceeding SAI programmatic goals. DOE selects best projects to meet those goals.
    - Cooperative Agreements require substantial involvement by DOE. DOE is a partner in projects through actions that include, but are not limited to, technical direction, independent stage-gate reviews, key decision points, technical project monitoring, financial monitoring, and peer reviews.
    - No avenue for protests. Unsuccessful applicants provided written and/or oral de-brief of strengths and weaknesses of their applications.

TA Estimated Timeline

Aug '06   **October**   **January**   **March '07**

FOA Release
August

Applications
Due
October

Selections
Made
January

Cooperative
Agreements
Negotiated
February- March

TA Funding Opportunity Announcement

- Results of the Technology Exchange Meetings and comments on RFI to inform:
  – FOA objectives, technical requirements and merit review criteria
  – Topic area definitions
  – Duration of awards
  – Potential DOE funding amounts
  – Minimum cost share requirements
  – Need for restrictions of eligibility
  – Need for phasing of projects

Application Review/Selection Process

- Applications must be submitted by FOA closing date/time to Grants.gov (Must register with Grants.gov at least 14 days prior to submitting an Application)
- Questions regarding all FOA requirements must be submitted through Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS). Responses to all questions through IIPS.
- Applications initially screened for responsiveness to published FOA requirements
- Applications that pass initial screening undergo Merit Review process using evaluation criteria
- Merit Review Committee (MRC) made up of DOE and independent reviewers (may include National Lab reviewers)
- MRC members required to sign COI/non-disclosure statements
- MRC will review and score only against published evaluation criteria
- Selections made on basis of Merit Review scores, program policy factors, and best value in terms of meeting SAI/TA goals

Cooperative Agreements Overview

- Cooperative agreements require substantial involvement by DOE
- Funding subject to annual appropriations
- Award will be with the TA Recipient. Partners will be subrecipients.
- Cost share (from non-Federal sources) calculated against total project costs (DOE funds + non-Federal cost share)
- Project management plans will be required for all projects including schedules, milestones, deliverables
- Stage-gate reviews may be required